

AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL RULES OF  
APPELLATE PROCEDURE

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COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE CHIEF JUSTICE, THE SUPREME COURT  
OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE THAT HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES PURSUANT TO SECTION 2072 OF TITLE 28, UNITED STATES CODE



APRIL 18, 2022.—Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

29-011

WASHINGTON : 2022



SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, DC, April 11, 2022.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to submit to the Congress the amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States pursuant to Section 2072 of Title 28, United States Code.

Accompanying the amended rules are the following materials that were submitted to the Court for its consideration pursuant to Section 331 of Title 28, United States Code: a transmittal letter to the Court dated October 18, 2021; a redline version of the rules with committee notes; an excerpt from the September 2021 report of the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure to the Judicial Conference of the United States; and an excerpt from the June 2021 report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules.

Sincerely,

JOHN G. ROBERTS, Jr.,  
*Chief Justice.*

April 11, 2022

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

ORDERED:

1. The Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure are amended to include amendments to Rules 25 and 42.

[*See infra* pp. \_\_\_\_\_.]

2. The foregoing amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure shall take effect on December 1, 2022, and shall govern in all proceedings in appellate cases thereafter commenced and, insofar as just and practicable, all proceedings then pending.

3. THE CHIEF JUSTICE is authorized to transmit to the Congress the foregoing amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure in accordance with the provisions of Section 2074 of Title 28, United States Code.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE**

**Rule 25. Filing and Service**

**(a) Filing.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(5) **Privacy Protection.** An appeal in a case whose privacy protection was governed by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9037, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, or Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 is governed by the same rule on appeal. In all other proceedings, privacy protection is governed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, except that Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 governs when an extraordinary writ is sought in a criminal case. The provisions on remote electronic access in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure

## FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

5.2(c)(1) and (2) apply in a petition for review of a benefits decision of the Railroad Retirement Board under the Railroad Retirement Act.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Rule 42. Voluntary Dismissal**

\* \* \* \* \*

**(b) Dismissal in the Court of Appeals.**

- (1) **Stipulated Dismissal.** The circuit clerk must dismiss a docketed appeal if the parties file a signed dismissal agreement specifying how costs are to be paid and pay any court fees that are due.
- (2) **Appellant's Motion to Dismiss.** An appeal may be dismissed on the appellant's motion on terms agreed to by the parties or fixed by the court.
- (3) **Other Relief.** A court order is required for any relief under Rule 42(b)(1) or (2) beyond the dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating an action of the district court or an administrative agency, or remanding the case to either of them.

## 4 FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

- (c) **Court Approval.** This Rule 42 does not alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a settlement, payment, or other consideration.
- (d) **Criminal Cases.** A court may, by local rule, impose requirements to confirm that a defendant has consented to the dismissal of an appeal in a criminal case.



## JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
*Presiding*HONORABLE ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOFF  
*Secretary*

October 18, 2021

## MEMORANDUM

To: Chief Justice of the United States  
Associate Justices of the Supreme Court

From: Judge Roslynn R. Mauskopf *Roslynn R. Mauskopf*

RE: TRANSMITTAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

By direction of the Judicial Conference of the United States, pursuant to the authority conferred by 28 U.S.C. § 331, I transmit for the Court's consideration proposed amendments to Rules 25 and 42 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, which have been approved by the Judicial Conference. The Judicial Conference recommends that the amendments be adopted by the Court and transmitted to Congress pursuant to law.

For your assistance in considering the proposed amendments, I am transmitting (i) clean and blackline copies of the amended rules along with committee notes; (ii) an excerpt from the September 2021 report of the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure to the Judicial Conference; and (iii) an excerpt from the June 2021 report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules.

Attachments

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE<sup>1</sup>**

1      **Rule 25. Filing and Service**

2      **(a) Filing.**

3                          \* \* \* \* \*

4                          (5)    **Privacy Protection.** An appeal in a case  
5                          whose privacy protection was governed by  
6                          Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9037,  
7                          Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, or  
8                          Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 is  
9                          governed by the same rule on appeal. In all  
10                         other proceedings, privacy protection is  
11                         governed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure  
12                         5.2, except that Federal Rule of Criminal  
13                         Procedure 49.1 governs when an  
14                         extraordinary writ is sought in a criminal

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<sup>1</sup> New material is underlined; matter to be omitted is lined through.

## 2 FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

15 case. The provisions on remote electronic  
16 access in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure  
17 5.2(c)(1) and (2) apply in a petition for  
18 review of a benefits decision of the Railroad  
19 Retirement Board under the Railroad  
20 Retirement Act.

21 \* \* \* \* \*

**Committee Note**

There are close parallels between the Social Security Act and the Railroad Retirement Act. One difference, however, is that judicial review in Social Security cases is initiated in the district courts, while judicial review in Railroad Retirement cases is initiated directly in the courts of appeals. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2 protects privacy in Social Security cases by limiting remote electronic access. The amendment extends those protections to Railroad Retirement cases.

1   **Rule 42. Voluntary Dismissal**

2                         \* \* \* \* \*

3    **(b) Dismissal in the Court of Appeals.**

4                         (1) **Stipulated Dismissal.** The circuit clerk ~~may~~  
5                         ~~must~~ dismiss a docketed appeal if the parties  
6                         file a signed dismissal agreement specifying  
7                         how costs are to be paid and pay any ~~court~~  
8                         fees that are due. ~~But no mandate or other~~  
9                         process may issue without a court order.

10                        (2) **Appellant's Motion to Dismiss.** An appeal  
11                         may be dismissed on the appellant's motion  
12                         on terms agreed to by the parties or fixed by  
13                         the court.

14                        (3) **Other Relief.** A court order is required for  
15                         any relief under Rule 42(b)(1) or (2) beyond  
16                         the dismissal of an appeal—including  
17                         approving a settlement, vacating an action of

18                 the district court or an administrative agency,  
19                 or remanding the case to either of them.  
20         (c)     Court Approval. This Rule 42 does not alter the  
21                 legal requirements governing court approval of a  
22                 settlement, payment, or other consideration.  
23         (d)     Criminal Cases. A court may, by local rule, impose  
24                 requirements to confirm that a defendant has  
25                 consented to the dismissal of an appeal in a criminal  
26                 case.

#### Committee Note

The amendment restores the requirement, in effect prior to the restyling of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, that the circuit clerk dismiss an appeal if all parties so agree. It also clarifies that the fees that must be paid are court fees, not attorney's fees. The rule does not alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a settlement, payment, or other consideration. *See, e.g.,* Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e) (requiring district court approval).

The amendment replaces old terminology and clarifies that any relief beyond dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating, or remanding—requires a court order. Pursuant to Rule 20, Rule 42(b) applies to petitions for review and applications to enforce an agency order. For Rule 42(b) to function in such cases,

“appeal” should be understood to include a petition for review or application to enforce an agency order.

The amendment permits local rules that impose requirements to confirm that a defendant has consented to the dismissal of an appeal in a criminal case.

**Excerpt from the September 2021 Report of the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure**

**Agenda E-19  
Rules  
September 2021**

**REPORT OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**

**COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE**

**TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES:**

\* \* \* \* \*

**FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE**

***Rules Recommended for Approval and Transmission***

The Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules recommended for final approval proposed amendments to Rules 25 and 42.

**Rule 25 (Filing and Service)**

The proposed amendment to Rule 25(a)(5) concerning privacy protection was published for public comment in August 2020. It would extend to petitions for review under the Railroad Retirement Act the same restrictions on remote electronic access to electronic files that Civil Rule 5.2(c) imposes in immigration cases and Social Security review actions. While Railroad Retirement Act review proceedings are similar to Social Security review actions, the Railroad Retirement Act review petitions are filed directly in the courts of appeals instead of the district courts. The same limits on remote electronic access are appropriate for Railroad Retirement Act proceedings, so the proposed amendment to Rule 25(a)(5) applies the provisions in Civil Rule 5.2(c)(1) and (2) to such proceedings.

**NOTICE**

NO RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED HEREIN REPRESENT THE POLICY OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE  
UNLESS APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE ITSELF.

**Excerpt from the September 2021 Report of the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure****Rule 42 (Voluntary Dismissal)**

The proposed amendment to Rule 42 was published for public comment in August 2019.

At its June 2020 meeting, the Standing Committee queried how the proposed amendment might interact with local circuit rules that require evidence of a criminal defendant's consent to dismissal of an appeal. The Standing Committee withheld approval pending further study, and the Advisory Committee subsequently examined a number of local rules designed to ensure that a defendant has consented to dismissal. These local rules take a variety of approaches such as requiring a personally signed statement from the defendant or a statement from counsel about the defendant's knowledge and consent. The Advisory Committee added a new Rule 42(d) to the amendment to explicitly authorize such local rules.

The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Advisory Committee's recommendation that the proposed amendments to Rules 25 and 42 be approved and transmitted to the Judicial Conference.

**Recommendation:** That the Judicial Conference approve the proposed amendments to Appellate Rules 25 and 42 . . . and transmit them to the Supreme Court for consideration with a recommendation that they be adopted by the Court and transmitted to Congress in accordance with the law.

\* \* \* \* \*

Respectfully submitted,



John D. Bates, Chair

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Jesse M. Furman         | Carolyn B. Kuhl     |
| Daniel C. Girard        | Patricia A. Millett |
| Robert J. Giuffra, Jr.  | Lisa O. Monaco      |
| Frank M. Hull           | Gene E.K. Pratter   |
| William J. Kayatta, Jr. | Kosta Stojilkovic   |
| Peter D. Keisler        | Jennifer G. Zipps   |
| William K. Kelley       |                     |

**Excerpt from the June 1, 2021 Report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules**

COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE  
OF THE  
JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

JOHN D. BATES  
CHAIR

CHAIRS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

JAY S. BYBEE  
APPELLATE RULES

DENNIS R. DOW  
BANKRUPTCY RULES

ROBERT M. DOW, JR.  
CIVIL RULES

RAYMOND M. KETHEEDGE  
CRIMINAL RULES

PATRICK J. SCHILTZ  
EVIDENCE RULES

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Honorable John D. Bates, Chair  
Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

**FROM:** Judge Jay Bybee, Chair  
Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules

**RE:** Report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules

**DATE:** June 1, 2021

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**I. Introduction**

The Advisory Committee on the Appellate Rules met on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, via Teams. The draft minutes from the meeting are attached to this report.

The Committee approved proposed amendments previously published for public comment for which it now seeks final approval. One is a proposed amendment to Rule 42, dealing with stipulated dismissals. A second is a proposed amendment to Rule 25, dealing with privacy protections in Railroad Retirement Act cases. (Part II of this report.)

\* \* \* \*

Excerpt from the June 1, 2021 Report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules

**II. Action Items for Final Approval After Public Comment**

**A. Rule 42—Voluntary Dismissal**

The proposed amendment to Rule 42 was published for public comment in August 2019. At the June 2020 meeting of the Standing Committee, the Committee presented it for final approval. The Standing Committee was concerned about how the proposed amendment might interact with local circuit rules that require evidence of a criminal defendant's consent to dismissal. It decided to withhold approval until local rules were examined.

The Committee examined several local rules that are designed to be sure that a defendant has consented to dismissal. These local rules take a variety of approaches, such as requiring a signed statement from the defendant personally or requiring a statement from counsel about the defendant's knowledge and consent. The Committee added a sentence to guard against the risk that these local rules might be superseded by the proposed amendment, and now seeks final approval of the following:

**Rule 42. Voluntary Dismissal**

\* \* \* \* \*

**(b) Dismissal in the Court of Appeals.**

**(1) Stipulated Dismissal.** The circuit clerk ~~may~~ must dismiss a docketed appeal if the parties file a signed dismissal agreement specifying how costs are to be paid and pay any ~~court~~ fees that are due. But no mandate or other process ~~may~~ issue without a court order.

**(2) Appellant's Motion to Dismiss.** An appeal may be dismissed on the appellant's motion on terms agreed to by the parties or fixed by the court.

**(3) Other Relief.** A court order is required for any relief under Rule 42(b)(1) or (2) beyond the dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating an action of the district court or an administrative agency, or remanding the case to either of them.

**(c) Court Approval.** This Rule 42 does not alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a settlement, payment, or other consideration.

**Excerpt from the June 1, 2021 Report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules**

**(d) Criminal Cases.** A court may, by local rule, impose requirements to confirm that a defendant has consented to the dismissal of an appeal in a criminal case.

**Committee Note**

The amendment restores the requirement, in effect prior to the restyling of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, that the circuit clerk dismiss an appeal if all parties so agree. It also clarifies that the fees that must be paid are court fees, not attorney's fees. The Rule does not alter the legal requirements governing court approval of a settlement, payment, or other consideration. See, e.g., F.R.Civ.P. 23(e) (requiring district court approval).

The amendment replaces old terminology and clarifies that any relief beyond dismissal of an appeal—including approving a settlement, vacating, or remanding—requires a court order. Pursuant to Rule 20, Rule 42(b) applies to petitions for review and applications to enforce an agency order. For Rule 42(b) to function in such cases, “appeal” should be understood to include a petition for review or application to enforce an agency order.

The amendment permits local rules that impose requirements to confirm that a defendant has consented to the dismissal of an appeal in a criminal case.

**B. Rule 25—Railroad Retirement Act**

The proposed amendment to Rule 25 was published for public comment in August 2020. It would extend the privacy protection now given to Social Security and immigration cases to Railroad Retirement Act cases. The reason for the amendment is that Railroad Retirement Act benefit cases are very similar to Social Security Act cases. But unlike Social Security Act cases, Railroad Retirement Act cases are brought directly to the courts of appeals.

The Committee replaced both the phrase “remote access” in the text of the proposed amendment and the phrase “electronic access” in the Committee Note with the phrase “remote electronic access.” With this change, the Committee seeks final approval of the following:

**Excerpt from the June 1, 2021 Report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules**

**Rule 25. Filing and Service**

**(a) Filing**

\* \* \* \* \*

**(5) Privacy Protection.** An appeal in a case whose privacy protection was governed by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9037, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, or Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 is governed by the same rule on appeal. In all other proceedings, privacy protection is governed by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2, except that Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 governs when an extraordinary writ is sought in a criminal case. The provisions on remote electronic access in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2(c)(1) and (2) apply in a petition for review of a benefits decision of the Railroad Retirement Board under the Railroad Retirement Act.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Committee Note**

There are close parallels between the Social Security Act and the Railroad Retirement Act. One difference, however, is that judicial review in Social Security cases is initiated in the district courts, while judicial review in Railroad Retirement cases is initiated directly in the courts of appeals. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2 protects privacy in Social Security cases by limiting remote electronic access. The amendment extends those protections to Railroad Retirement cases.

\* \* \* \* \*

